

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 9:45 a.m., to hold a nomination hearing for the Honorable Susan E. Rice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Investing in Health IT: A Stimulus for a Healthier America" on Thursday, January 15, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Job Creation and Economic Stimulus in Indian Country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr., to be Attorney General of the United States on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SR-325 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a member of my staff, Deborah Katz, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Mitch Schaben of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE STAFF TRANSITION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 14.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 14) to provide funding for Senate staff transition.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 14) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 14

Resolved, That (a) for purposes of this section, the term "eligible staff member" means an individual—

(1) whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate and was an employee as of January 2, 2009; and

(2) who was an employee of a Senator who stood for an additional term for the office of Senator but the office is not filled at the commencement of that term.

(b)(1) With respect to an eligible staff member who is being treated as a displaced staff member under section 6 of Senate Resolution 458 (98th Congress), as amended by Senate Resolution 9 (103d Congress), the period referred to in section 6(c)(1) of such resolution shall be 90 days.

(2)(A) Each eligible staff member may, with the approval, direction, and supervision of the Secretary of the Senate, perform limited duties such as archiving and transferring case files.

(B) The Secretary of the Senate may hire 2 additional eligible staff members to perform the duties described in subparagraph (A) subject to subparagraph (C). Such employees shall be treated as displaced staff members under section 6 of Senate Resolution 458 (98th Congress), as amended by Senate Resolution 9 (103d Congress), after the expiration of the period described in subparagraph (C). Expenses for such employees shall be paid from the Contingent Fund of the Senate.

(C) Subparagraph (A) shall apply for the period from January 2, 2009 through February 4, 2009 unless the eligible staff member becomes otherwise employed.

(3) A statement in writing by an eligible staff member that he or she was not gainfully employed during such period or the portion thereof for which payment is claimed under this subsection shall be accepted as prima facie evidence that he or she was not so employed.

(c) The Secretary of the Senate shall notify the Committee on Rules and Administration of the name of each eligible staff member.

(d)(1) During the period described in paragraph (2), the official office and State office expenses relating to archiving and transferring case files of a Senator who stood for an additional term for the office of Senator but whose office is not filled at the commencement of that term shall be paid from the account for Miscellaneous Items within the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved and obligated by the Secretary of the Senate or the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, as appropriate.

(2) The period described in paragraph (1) is the period from January 2, 2009 through February 4, 2009.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2)(B), funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this section shall be available as set forth in section 1(d) of Senate Resolution 458, agreed to October 4, 1984 (98th Congress).

(f) This section shall expire 90 days after January 3, 2009.

SEC. 2. (a) For purposes of section 6(a)(4)(A)(i) of Senate Resolution 458 (98th Congress), as amended by Senate Resolution 9 (103d Congress), the term committee shall include subcommittee.

(b) This section shall take effect on January 2, 2009 and expire 120 days after such date.

RALPH REGULA FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING AND COURTHOUSE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 273.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 273) to require the designation of a federally occupied building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, S.W., in Canton, Ohio, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Office Building and Courthouse."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 273) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 273

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RALPH REGULA FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING AND COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall ensure that the federally occupied building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, S.W., Canton, Ohio, is known and designated as the "Ralph Regula Federal Office Building and Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—During the period in which the building referred to in subsection (a) is federally occupied, any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to that building shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ralph Regula Federal Office Building and Courthouse".

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 111-1

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on January 15, 2009, by President Bush: Tax Convention with Malta, Treaty Document No. 111-1. I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first

time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (the "proposed Convention"). I also transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes an Overview of the proposed Convention.

The proposed Convention provides for reduced withholding rates on cross-border payments of dividends, interest, royalties, and other income. The proposed Convention contains a restrictive provision designed to prevent "treaty shopping," which is the inappropriate use of a tax treaty by third-country residents. The proposed Convention also provides for the exchange of information between the competent au-

thorities to facilitate the administration of each country's tax laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize to all of the staff—we have had a long, hard week—for keeping everybody around, but we have had some very important business Senator MCCONNELL and I have been working on for 3 days and we just could not leave without completing that. I know it is tough to be out here and have a quorum call and not getting things done, but when we are not out here, it does not mean we are not doing things. So I apologize to the Presiding Officer and the wonderful staff, but I appreciate your patience.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. tomorrow, January 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings

be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask consent that Senator SALAZAR be recognized to speak following leader remarks in order to give his farewell remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, Senator-appointee TED KAUFMAN will take the oath of office and become a U.S. Senator, replacing our soon-to-be Vice President, JOE BIDEN.

There will be no rollcall votes tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:32 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 16, 2009, at 10 a.m.